GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Fisheries Department – Fisheries Policy of Andhra Pradesh 2015-2020 - Orders – Issued.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, DAIRY DEVELOPMENT & FISHERIES (FISH) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No.30 Dated:31-10-2015

Read:-

From the Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad
Letter No.1860/B1/2015, dated 2.5.2015.

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ORDER:

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified the Fisheries sector as a Growth Engine for social economic development of the new State of Andhra Pradesh. The Vision 2029 Programme promotes the rational exploitation and utilization of the State's fishery resources in a manner consistent with the overall goal of sustainable development. In this context a comprehensive fisheries policy is indispensible and therefore the Government of Andhra Pradesh has considered it necessary to specifically to undertake a Fisheries Policy with a view to determining the nature and scope of current priorities; the role and contribution of the Fisheries Sector to meet these priorities; the strengths; potentials and constraints of the sector and the requirements to make the sector more responsive to the current demands on it.

2. The Government of Andhra Pradesh accords top priority to Fisheries Development and its intervention for marine, brackish water, Inland fisheries, reservoirs development and ornamental fishery trade, with a view to enhance the fish production to 42 lakh tones in the next five years from the present level of 19.64 lakh tones and to double the exports value from the present level of about Rs.16000 Crores.

3. Government with a view to make Andhra Pradesh a hub of Fisheries, hereby introduce the Fisheries Policy 2015-2020.

4. Under the Fisheries Policy 2015-2020, the Government approved the following fiscal benefits covering the categories of (a) Processing Units (b) Aquaculture Pond/ Farm (c) Feed Manufacturing Units/Fishery related Equipments Manufacturing (d) Aqua Labs/ Disease Diagnostic Labs Promotion.

4.1.0. **Processing Units**

4.1.1. For shrimp processing units including cold chain maintenance, Capital subsidy of 50% inclusive of land cost with upper ceiling limit of Rs.5 crores, will be provided. The cost of land should not exceed 15% of the total project cost on sub–registrar value.

4.1.2. For **fish processing / filleting units** including cold chain, land cost etc., subsidy of 50% with upper ceiling limit of Rs. 7 crores will be provided. The cost of land should not exceed 15% of the total project cost on sub –registrar date.

4.1.3. Interest subvention of 6% will be provided on bank loan subject to maximum of Rs.2.5 Crores for 5 year period to aqua processing units, ice plants and cold storages

4.1.4. Reefer vans: For purchase of Reefer vans, a subsidy of 50% with maximum of Rs. 10.00 Lakhs per vehicle will be provided from 2016-17 onwards

4.1.5 Cold storage at ports/ Fishing harbours with subsidy will be permitted on par with industrial policy.

(P.T.O)

4.1.6 Aquaculture processing units will be incentivized by providing 100% stamp duty exemption in land registration/lease of land/, mortgage deed/Bank documentation/ Hypothecation etc.

4.1.7. Power subsidy will also be permitted to fish/prawn/shrimp processing unit and ice plants from the date of commencement of commercial production and will be on par with industrial policy from 2016-17.

4.2.0. Aquaculture Pond /Farms

4.2.1. Financial assistance will be extended for farm mechanization like pumps and aerators with 50% subsidy. Solar pumps, solar lights and solar based aerators will be given on 60% subsidy to the prawn and shrimp farms up to maximum of 2 ha per farmer per annum .

4.2.2. Scale of finance by banks will be as per reasonable requirement for pond culture.

4.2.3. All subsidy schemes of Government of India/ Government of Andhra Pradesh/ NFDB/ MPEDA will also be accessed appropriately.

4.2.4. Power will be supplied to Shrimp and Prawn culture farms at Rs.3.75 ps/ unit for a maximum of 2 hectares per aqua-farmers/ shrimp farmers from the year 2016-17.

4.3.0 Feed Manufacturing units / fishery related Equipment Manufacturing

4.3.1. Incentives will be provided to feed manufacturing units, aerator manufacturing, fish processing equipment on par with industrial policy.

4.3.2. Interest subvention of 6% per annum up to a maximum of Rs.2.00 Crores will be provided to the Fish Feed Manufacturing units only for Five Years. This policy will be reviewed after one year.

4.4.0. Aqua labs / Disease diagnostic labs Promotion

4.4.1 All private labs in the State will be graded under technical supervision of State Institute of Fisheries technology (SIFT), Kakinada. SIFT will act as State referral lab for all private labs. The technicians of these labs will be continuously monitored to upgrade their skills as per the technical requirements of Aquaculture sector.

4.4.2 Water and soil analysis labs will be promoted in all major aquaculture districts for conducive water management. One lab for every 500 ha area is proposed with a unit cost of maximum of Rs.10.00 lakhs. The financial assistance of 50 % on the unit cost will be extended by Government and the balance of 50% to be borne by the concerned entrepreneur/ stakeholder.

4.4.3 Quality control / Antibiotic residue testing labs will be promoted through private sector in the districts of East Godavari, Krishna and Prakasam to overcome the problem of rejection of exported shrimp due to presence of antibiotic residues. The unit cost of the lab will be Rs. 2.00 Crores of which the Government assistance will be 40%**.**

5. **Insurance Facility***:* Suitable modalities will be worked out for Insurance to Aquaculture crops, boats and nets in consultation with insurance companies.

6. **Ease of Doing Business – Single Desk System:** In respect of processing industry, Ice Plants, feed manufacturing plants, and fishery related equipments, boat building yards, aerators manufacturing units etc there will be a **single desk system** for giving clearances through the e-platform of Industries department.

7. **Empowered Committee:** Small processing units will be sanctioned by the District Committee headed by District Collector. Large units will be sanctioned by Committee to be headed by the Secretary to Government, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries Department. The composition of the Committee is as follows:-

Composition of Empowered Committee:

a) Secretary to Government, AH, DD & F Dept. - Chairman
b) Secretary, Finance - Member
c) Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science and & Technology - Member
d) Secretary, Water Resources - Member
e) Secretary, Industries - Member
f) Secretary, Energy and Infrastructure - Member
g) Commissioner of Fisheries - Member /Convener

8. Research and Development

8.1. A Special fund of Rs 5 crore will be created (subsidy up to 60 % will be provided for sponsored research by reputed research institutions in Private sector and PPP mode, 100% funding to govt. institutions) for research & development in aquaculture.

8.2. Better coordination and convergence in the research efforts of various research and development institutions including the ICAR, State Agricultural and Veterinary University, All India Coordinated Research Projects, National Bureaus, NGOs and private sector to tackle demand driven and farmer-oriented issues will be prioritized.

9. **Public Private Partnership**

9.1. Infrastructure facilities like All-weather Harbours for Fishing crafts with all facilities will be established in Visakhapatnam. East Godavari, Prakasam and Nellore districts etc. under Build Operate and Transfer (BOT). Government will consider Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to such projects as per Government of India guidelines, in addition to other fiscal incentives mentioned earlier.

9.2. Aqua clusters with cold chain, processing & value addition will be established with the active participation of Private sectors like WalMart / Spencers /More/ Bigbazar etc., extending benefits as in the case of SEZ for 100% export promotion.

9.3. Sea cage culture and diversification into high value fish culture will be prioritized and encouraged by importing technology already developed else ware with buy back agreement from importing country.

9.4. Government will explore establishment of “Mid Sea Fish Processing/bunkering units” on a pilot basis under PPP mode for high value fin fish like tuna.

10. Export Promotion:

10.1. Linkage with MPEDA will be developed for storage/ refrigeration/Harbour Facilities/ Fiscal Incentives.

10.2. Mega Food Parks will be established in suitable places by tapping the incentive from the Government of India.

10.3. Effort will be made to develop fisheries infrastructure for promotion of fish and fish products exports in Bhimavaram and Visakhapanam which are recognized as the towns of export excellence (marine Sector) in trade policy of Government of India,2015-2020

11. Welfare

11.1. Livelihood compensation of Rs. 5 lakh will be paid to the fishermen during period of disasters, i.e., death in sea during fishing. For permanent disability, Rs. 2 lakhs will be paid. Advance warning systems will be strengthened to inform fishermen of impending disaster.

11.2. 'Polluter Pays Principle' will be applied in the fisheries sector and the CSR funds thus collected from coastal establishments will be routed for welfare of fishermen.

11.3. To ensure that the fishermen earn sustainable livelihood, it will be the endeavor of the government to promote co-management of the resources by effective involvement of local community in a cohesive manner.

11.4. Government will issue biometric identification to all fishermen.

11.5. Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure that quality education and healthcare, housing will be made available to the families of the fishermen. Fishermen habitations will be provided with safe drinking water, roads etc.

11.6. The extension of subsidies to SCs, STs and Women will be on par with industrial policy *vis a vis* this policy.

12. The Government also agreed that the assistance to the sea going fishermen during the ban period will be as per as Tamil Nadu package.

13. Minor Irrigation / Grama Panchayat (G.P.) Tanks will be leased out for 3 years to the genuine fishermen societies / SC/ST Fishermen society / Women of self-help groups in case there are no fishermen in that village.

14. The detailed policy document is appended as **Annexure.**

15. The policy will come into operation from the date of issue of this order and will remain in force for five (5) years or upto 31.3.2020.

16. The Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad shall take necessary action in the matter accordingly.

17. This orders issues with the concurrence of Finance Department vide their U.O. No.2126/156/A2/EBS-II/15, dated 16.6.2015.

DR.MANMOHAN SINGH
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner of Fisheries, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
The Special Chief Secretary to Government, E.F.S.& T. Dept.
The Principal Finance Secretary, Finance Department.
The Principal Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
The Principal Secretary to Government, Energy, I & I Department.
The Principal Secretary to Government, Water Resources Department.
The Secretary to Government, Industries & Commerce Department.
Copy to:
P.S to M (Agri, AH, DD & F)
P.S to Secretary to C.M.
P.S to Chief Secretary.
All District Collectors through Commissioner of Fisheries.
All the Heads of the Departments concerned through Commissioner of Fisheries.
The Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Agriculture,
Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
The Convener, State Level Banker's Committee, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.
The Chief Executive, National Fisheries Development Board, Hyderabad.

The Registrar, S.V.V.U, Tirupati.
The Managing Director, AFCOF, Hyderabad.
The Finance (EBS.II) Department.
The Law Department.
All sections in the AH, DD & F Department.
The General Administration (Cabinet) Department.
SF/SCs.

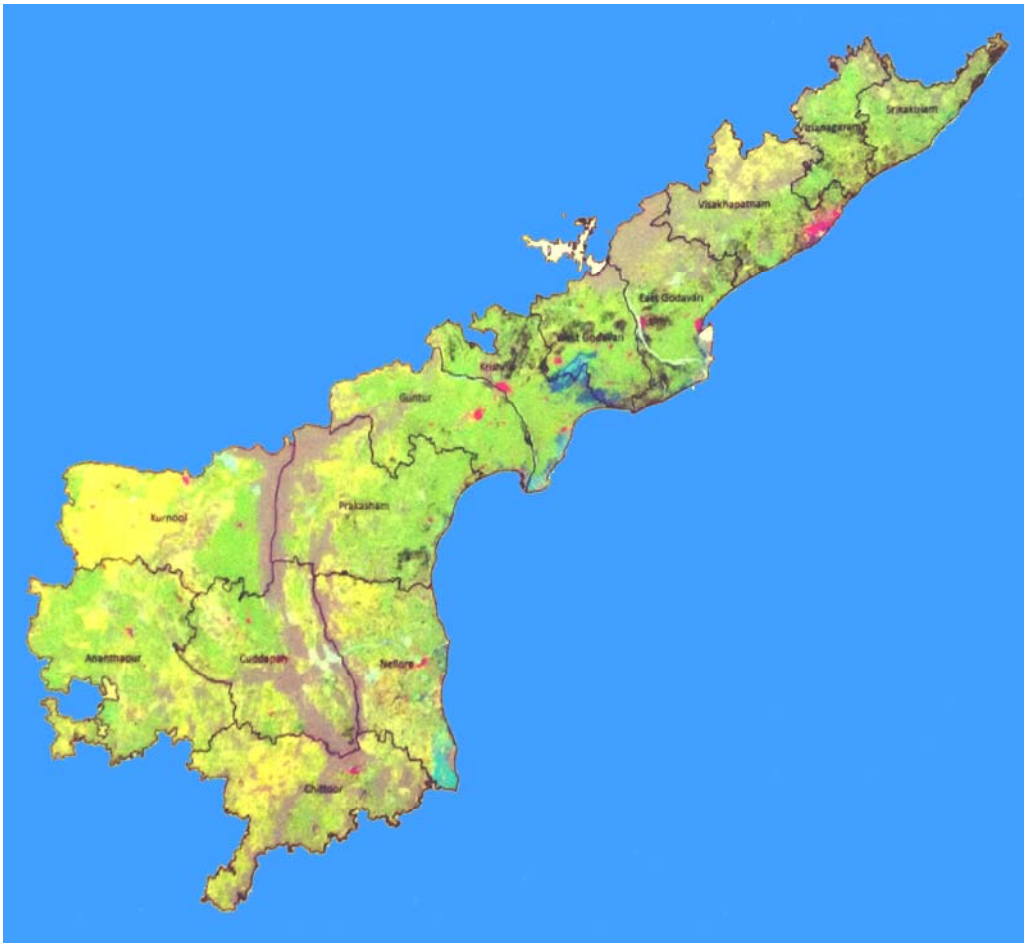
//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER

ANNEXURE

(G.O.Ms.No.30, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries (Fish) Department, dated 31.10.2015)

FISHERIES POLICY- 2015



GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

Department of Fisheries

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified the Fisheries sector as one of the Growth Engines for socio- economic development of the new State of Andhra Pradesh. The Vision 2029 promotes rational exploitation and utilization of the state's fishery resources in a manner consistent with the overall goal of sustainable development. In this context a comprehensive fisheries policy is indispensible. Government has considered it necessary to specifically undertake a Fisheries Policy with a view to determining the nature and scope of current priorities; the role and contribution of the Fisheries Sector to meet these priorities; the strengths; potentials and constraints of the sector and the interventions and incentives needed make the sector more responsive to the current demands on it. This policy outlines the developmental objectives, management measures and strategies to be implemented for the next five year period.

This policy outlines the developmental objectives, management measures and strategies to be implemented for the next five year period. The policy will aim to help the state in modernizing the fisheries sector by creating a stakeholder friendly eco-system for attracting new technology and investments. Put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture are sustainable with ecological integrity and biodiversity. Public Private Partnerships in several aspects of the fisheries value chain will be encouraged by providing fiscal incentives and facilitations. Further, the policy promotes innovation and will ensure technology up gradation through Research and Development besides Human Resource Development in the fisheries sector. It also safeguard the rights of small fishermen, encourage increased participation of women and implement schemes for welfare of fishermen with defined outcomes.

The key reform sectors identified for intervention are marine, brackish water, Inland fisheries, reservoirs development and ornamental fishery trade. The outcome expected is enhancement of fish production to 42 lakh tonnes in the next five years from the present level of 19.64 lakh tonnes and to double the exports value from the present level of about Rs. 16000 Crores. The Policy will ensure Sustainable Fishing Practices, Institutional Strengthening, focused Research & Development, Human Resource Development, Credit facilitation, Technology upgradation, Infrastructure Strengthening, Public and Private Participation (PPP). Convergence & Linkages envisaged in the policy will help overall development and welfare of the Fishers & Fisheries in the new state of Andhra Pradesh. This Policy is expected to help in increasing the production and productivity, processing facility, enhancing capacity building to manage the resources sustainably and rationally, better nutritional support to the teeming masses, gainful employment in fisheries and allied ancillary industries through increased exports and domestic marketing.

1. Introduction

1.1. Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh is strategically located on the South-Eastern coast of India and is the natural gateway to East and South East Asia. The state has a population of around 4.95 crore. Andhra Pradesh has fertile river basins, extensive canal system and conducive agro climatic conditions for fishery promotion. The state has 974 kms of coastline and is one of the largest producers of marine products. The state's coastline is also dotted with numerous major and minor ports and has a long sea faring tradition.

1.2. Policy

The fisheries and aquaculture play a significant role in providing employment, reducing poverty and promoting health. Fish is an extremely nutritious – a vital source of protein and essential nutrients. The sector provides employment opportunities to nearly 14.5 lakhs people directly and indirectly. Sustainable fisheries can generate lasting benefits for nutritional security and economic growth. Good governance and Good Aquaculture Practices can enable fisheries to thrive sustainably. Therefore the Government of Andhra Pradesh is unveiling this policy to create a suitable eco -system for the rapid growth of fisheries and aquaculture for the next Five years (2015-2020).

2. Vision

"Promotion of Andhra Pradesh as the 'Aqua Hub' of India"

3. Mission

- Ensure Sustainable socio economic development of people involved in fisheries
- Safeguard the rights of small fishermen, encourage increased participation of women in this sector and implement schemes for welfare of fishermen
- Creating an excellent environment to attract private sector investments in the fisheries sector through legislative and policy support.
- Put in place appropriate mechanisms to ensure sustainable fisheries and aquaculture to ensure ecological integrity and biodiversity.
- Promote high value fishery resources and their processing for value addition.
- Modernize the fisheries sector by importing new technologies.
- Promote innovation and encourage technology upgradation through Research and Development
- Assist in domestic market development through incentivization of Local bodies and private sector players to create modern cold chain and hygienic fish markets.
- Promote export market through quality management, packaging, labeling and marketing and Brand development.
- Enhance Human Resource Development to make the fisheries sector an efficient and professionally managed sector.
- Ensure sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards in all the stages of fisheries and aquaculture.
- Encourage Public Private Partnerships in all segments of the fisheries value chain.

4. Policy Validity:

The Policy has been framed for the period 2015-2020

5. Fisheries – Current Scenario and Potential

5.1. Global :

Global fish production has grown steadily in the last five decades with food fish supply increasing at an average annual rate of 3.2 percent, outpacing world population growth at 1.6 percent. World per capita fish consumption increased from an average of 9.9 kg in the 1960s to 21.0 kg in 2012.

According to the latest available statistics collected globally by FAO, world aquaculture production attained another all-time high of 90.4 million tonnes in 2012 (US$144.4 billion), World food fish aquaculture production expanded at an average annual rate of 6.2 percent in the period 2000–2012 from 32.4 million to 66.6 million tonnes.

5.2. India :

The fisheries sector is an important player in the overall socio-economic development of India. The sector's contribution to employment generation, food and nutritional security and foreign exchange earnings is now well recognized. The fisheries sector has also been one of the major contributors of foreign exchange earnings. During 2013-14, export value of marine products reached Rs. 30,213 crore

Marine fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture constitute the main components of fisheries sector. Aquaculture is practiced in both fresh and brackish waters. In recent years, sea farming is gaining popularity and a couple of fin and shellfish species and some sea weeds are now being farmed. Ornamental fish farming also has a promising future and is likely to contribute to the overall growth of fisheries sector in the coming years.

The continental shelf area is extended to 530 000 sq. km of which 71 percent area is available in the west coast and the remaining 29 percent in the east coast. The estimated marine resource potential of the Indian EEZ is 4.24 million metric tonnes (mmt) at the present exploitation rates.

With a combined length of 45,000 km and 20,000 sq. km of catchment area, the country's riverine resources provide one of the richest fish germplasm of the world. The country has an estimated 1.2 million hectare (mha) of floodplain lakes and wetlands.

Since the early eighties, development of brackish water fish culture has gained prominence. About 1.2 mha has been estimated as amenable for brackish water aquaculture in the coastal areas of the country. Besides tiger shrimp (*Penaeus monodon*), the exotic vannamei shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) is now a popular species among the aquaculturists.

5.3 Andhra Pradesh:

Andhra Pradesh stands first in total fish and prawn/shrimp production in India since 2013-14 both in terms of production and value. The contribution of fisheries sector is 6.01 % in A.P's. GSDP, whereas the fisheries contribution is about 0.83% of GDP of the nation. The overall fish production has more than doubled in the past one decade from 8.14 lakh tons in 2005-06 to 19.64 lakh tones in 2014-15.The share of Andhra Pradesh in India's sea food exports has increased from about 20% in 2009-10 to about 40% in 2013-14. During

2009-10 the exports from Andhra Pradesh was Rs. 2,100 crores but by 2013-14 exports have increased to Rs. 12,100 crores. During 2014-15, the marine exports have been increased to an estimated value of Rs.16,000 Crores.

5.3.1. Marine Fisheries

Nine out of thirteen districts of Andhra Pradesh are along the coastline and the total length of the coast is around 974 KM. The total continental shelf is more than 33,227 Sq.km. The total marine fishermen population in the state is around 6.05 lakh and sea going fishermen are around 1.5 lakh. The total fishing crafts in the state are around 29,195 with around 12,747 motorized crafts, 1771 Mechanized and 14677 traditional crafts. There are 4 fishing harbors 353 fish landing centers and 555 fishing villages.

5.3.2. Brackish Water Fisheries

The total potential area for brackish water fishing is around 1,74,000 ha. But presently the area under culture is around 37,245 ha involving more than 15,000 farmers. Mangrove wet lands of 28,200 ha is also promoting the brackish water aquaculture in the state. *L.vannamei* and *P.monodon* are the two predominant species in brackish water aquaculture in the state.

5.3.3. Fresh Water Fisheries

There are a total of 104 reservoirs in the state with 2.40 lakh hectares water spread area. There are about 25,400 tanks with an area of about 3.38 lakh ha, aquaculture ponds 42100 with an extent of 1.25 lakh ha, one fresh water Kolleru lake with an extent of 0.90 lakh ha and rivers and canals covering a length of 11,514 Kms. There are 132 Fish Seed Farms (Government 50 + 82 Private) and about 300 Shrimp hatcheries and catering the needs of fish and prawn seed to aqua farmers of the state and also to other states.

6. Fisheries in Andhra Pradesh – Opportunities and Challenges

6.1 Opportunities:

There are a number of natural as well as infrastructure related aspects that have supported the exponential growth of the sector in the state in the past few years. These can be listed as follows

6.1.2 Market Potential :

The State has large marketing potential for fish products in urban areas within the state and in other states of India. In India, 60% of population is non-vegetarians and hence there is demand of fish consumption. At Present the national fish consumption is 11 Kgs and in AP it is estimated at 7.4 Kgs. The world fish consumption is 21.0 Kgs. Hence, there is a huge gap in consumption which can be filled up by A.P by promoting domestic market.

6.1.3. Excellent fishing infrastructure

- The state has 4 fishing harbours – Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Nizampatnam and Krishnapatnam. 1 major port at Visakhapatnam and 14 non major ports offering vast opportunity for exporting fish products.
- There is scope for establishment of new fishing harbours/ fish landing centers and

other post-harvest and market infrastructure to give value addition to the produce.

- Several modern retail and wholesale fish markets have been developed by the National Fisheries Development Board and State Fisheries department.
- Availability of 56 Processing Plants with a capacity of 2272 MT/ day, 148 ice plants, 45 Freezing Plants with a capacity of 1 million tones/ year and 28 Cold Storage Plants with a capacity of 25000 MT and operating with EU/ ISO 9000 / HACCP standards.
  Highly motivated fish/shrimp farmers, ample water availability and favourable climatic condition

6.2 Challenges:

Four different sets of challenges have been identified, which if addressed can quicken and improve the rate of growth in Fisheries in the state. These can be categorised as follows

6.2.1 Sustainability

- Excessive fishing capacity causing over-fishing leading to depletion of stock and recruitment in the marine sector.
- Barring the ban period, fishing activity is undertaken almost throughout the year through un-sustainable fishery practices, thus disturbing the life cycles of the fish in fresh water bodies.
- Production of good quality seed is a major challenge.

6.2.2. Lack of access to modern technology and credit facilities:

- The majority of the boats are small fishing boats and such boats lack modern fishing facilities and equipments and information and communication equipment.
- The technology used at various levels of the value chain starting from boats to cold chain is inadequate and obsolete
- The fishermen do not have access to institutional financing and new technologies.

6.2.3. Inadequate infrastructure and shortfall of skilled personnel

- Post-harvest processing infrastructure in the state is very limited.
- Cold storage and transportation services are also constrained.
- Inadequate infrastructure facilities, information and communication channels.
- Shortage of technical manpower at middle and higher levels.

6.2.4. Others.

- Rapid urbanization, degradation of mangroves, oil and gas exploration activities and other anthropogenic activities along and off the coast contributing to pollution, coastal erosion and livelihood destruction.
- New and emerging diseases in aquaculture and non-availability of infrastructure for dealing with disease emergencies
- Unreliable resource base and statistics.
- Lack of suitable management intervention to increase reservoir fisheries productivity.
- Clandestine import and introduction of exotic aqua culture species threatening bio-diversity.
- Inadequate domestic market development.
- Frequent cyclones leading to loss of mandays for sea going fishermen and damage the aquaculture.

7. Policy Initiatives:

After evaluating the fishery resources in New Andhra Pradesh state, the following key aspects have been identified for policy, regulatory and other interventions.

7.1. Policy Intervention

There is a need for coherence between the policies within and outside the fisheries sector, Suitable amendments shall be made in the existing fisheries/ Aquaculture Acts for long-term, effective and positive governance of this sector. Coordination mechanism for synergy with the agriculture and allied sectors to utilizes the common infrastructure.

7.1.1. Marine Fishery

(i) The government shall establish fish landing centers with modern infrastructure facilities for hygienic handling of fish in coastal villages.

(ii) Mariculture will be promoted aggressively to augment the fish production from coastal waters. Cage culture and sea weed culture shall be undertaken to promote mariculture.

(iii) Leasing Policy for promotion of mari- culture in the state to be introduced through private sector. Feasible locations of bays, creeks, back waters, mangroves in the coastal region have to be identified with the assistance of CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Kochi) centre at Visakhapatnam for taking up of mari-culture in a phased manner with the assistance of MPEDA (RGCA)

(iv) The government shall take steps to install a large number of artificial reefs/ FADs (Fish Aggregating Devices) for augmenting depleted fish stocks to safe guard small scale fishers.

(v) The government shall undertake measures to promote deep sea fishing while protecting the rights of small scale fishers.

(vi) The Government shall explore the opportunities for alternate livelihoods for coastal fishers in view of the dwindling of fishing grounds due to establishment of coastal based industries and other activities.

(vii) To ensure the safety of fishermen at sea and to catch more fish, sea safety and navigational equipment are proposed to be supplied. INCOIS display boards for Potential Fishery Zone (PFZ) information will be displayed. The shore station facilities shall be effectively utilized for the benefit of fishing communities

(viii) All Marine Fishing Craft will be registered as per Marine Shipping Act, 1957 and AP Marine Fishing Regulation Act 1995.

(ix) Ban period notified by government will be followed strictly for rejuvenation of fish stocks.

(x) Present fishing harbours and landing centers shall be provided with facilities for hygienic handling of fish as per the International standards.

(xi) Construction of landing, berthing, bunkering and post-harvest handling facilities shall be considered on a priority basis by the government

(xii) Infrastructure facilities like fish drying platforms, solar drying, dry fish storage sheds, boat building yards, village approach roads shall be implemented at all coastal villages

(xiii) Orientation training will held in all 555 coastal fishermen villages, women members of SHGs, 353 fish landing centres on hygienic handling of fish, tuna processing and conservation of fishery wealth in a phased manner.

7.1.2. Brackish Water Fishery

(i) By suitably restructuring the land lease policies, the government owned brackish water areas suitable for coastal aquaculture will be allotted to fishing cooperatives, self-help groups, unemployed youth and private entrepreneurs up to a period of 9 years renewable for further period of 2 years for promoting sustainable aquaculture system through a transparent allotment policy.

(ii) To assist in diversification of aquaculture, multi-species hatcheries will be given a thrust - Steps will be taken to promote alternate species culture like Mud Crab, Sea Bass, Cobia, Silver Pompano and Grouper etc, through PPP Mode.

(iii) Research in new technology such as indoor high density sustainable shrimp culture, bio-flocculation technology etc. will be promoted by involving national/international experts.

(iv) Quarantine facilities and multiplication centers for *L.vannamei* and other exotic species will be established or promoted at Muthukuru (Nellore District), Kakinada (East Godavari District) and Visakhapatnam.

(v) Various regulatory mechanisms shall be implemented to regulate the collection of seed and brood stock from the wild and to prevent the unauthorized introduction of non-native stock into Aquaculture.

(vi) A Cluster Approach (Aquaculture clusters) will be adopted to promote Best Management Practices (BMPs), collective marketing, common infrastructure and pollution control for sustainable brackish water aquaculture in the state.

(vii) The A.P. Seed Act, 2005, will be suitably amended and shall be implemented- Gradation and Accreditation system for Hatcheries will introduced to ensure supply of good quality seed to farmers.

(viii) Unauthorized hatcheries and substandard hatcheries will be closed by invoking the provisions of AP Seed Act, besides the assistance from CAA and MPEDA.

(ix) Guidelines issued by Government of India on exotic species will be followed.

7.1.3. Inland Fishery

i. A detailed resource survey using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) shall be undertaken for assessment of inland fisheries resources in the context of land use and land cover change that have taken place during the past decade, for promoting capture and culture fisheries in the inland water bodies.

ii. A need based assessment on the fish/scampi seed requirement shall be made and establishment of fish/scampi hatcheries shall be encouraged. While doing so, Cluster Approach (CA) for fish seed production and supply shall be supported by allocating specific areas for fingerlings production.

iii. All the open water bodies, minor and medium irrigation tanks, percolation tanks, canals, fresh water lakes and reservoirs will be brought under the fold of culture based capture fisheries through a comprehensive leasing Policy.

iv. Uniform leasing of all water bodies under the control of Gram Panchayat (GP) and/or any other Government department for a minimum duration of 5 to 7 years shall be promoted to ensure free flow of bank credit for making them suitable for fish culture and to build confidence among the fish farming community.

v. Minor irrigation / Gram Panchayat (GP) tanks will be leased out for 3 years to the genuine fishermen society / SC/ST Fishermen Society/ Women of Self Help Groups in case there are no fishermen in that village.

7.1.4. Reservoir Fishery Management

i. Creation of Aquaculture Development wing in the Fisheries Commissionerate with experts and consultants and this shall facilitate investment related clearances with respect to upcoming projects in the state. It shall act as a advisory wing in relation to regulatory and technological issues to the Commissioner of Fisheries.

ii. Licensing scheme will be implemented strictly following conservancy measures to safe guard the Biodiversity of the ecosystem.

iii. Cage culture will be promoted in identified areas to boost production and increase employment generation.

iv. Preference shall be given to the registered Fishermen Cooperative Societies (FCS) for leasing of the fishing rights of all reservoirs. However, Leasing of Big reservoirs to private entrepreneurs/individuals/public sector undertakings/ registered companies shall be through public auction upto a period of 5 years. There will be a review for every two years for further renewal of lease period. The members of FCSs will be involved in revenue sharing on the amount realized for the above lease period and also on the one third of the fish catch by the society members who involved in fishing. However, this Provision will be implemented with the consent of the concerned FCSs.

v. Regular stock enhancement programmes shall be taken up in all reservoirs. To accomplish this, steps shall be taken to create basic infrastructure facilities in the reservoir sites such as captive hatcheries, nurseries, fry/advance fingerling raising centers.

vi. Captive nurseries will be established at the vicinity of all reservoirs which were leased to FCSs for rearing of fish seed up to advance finger lings of 80 to 100 mm size duly tieing up the MGNREGS /RKVY/NSP funds.

vii. Supplementary feeding will be permitted in reservoirs and tanks to enhance production wherever feasible.

viii. Fish Production of Reservoirs and tanks shall be promoted by following scientific and eco-friendly methods to increase the productivity upto 1 tonne / ha .

ix. Fish seed certification norms and fish seed hatchery registration shall be based on the AP Seed (Quality Control) Act. 2005. Fish seed producers/hatchery owners in the state shall be duly registered for ensuring free movement of disease free and quality fish seed. Gradation and accreditation system will be introduced.

x. Pen and cage culture will be encouraged at all feasible water bodies to increase the productivity and production levels.

7.1.5. Pond Culture:

(i) Registration of all freshwater ponds as per G.O. Ms. No.7, dated 16-3-2013 of the Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries Department as amended from time to time will be mandatory.

(ii) Renewal procedure of registered farms will be simplified.

(iii) Lands in blocks (Zones) suitable for Pisciculture will be identified and notified for easy permission etc. This will also help in creating sustainable/chemical free aqua farming zones.

(iv) Land ceiling exemptions upto 100 ha as per G.O.Ms. No. 878, dated 15-7-2008 of the Revenue (Land Reforms) Department will be implemented.

(v) Enough provision for freshwater allocation will be done by Water Resource Department on par with paddy fields.

(vi) The culture of fish shall not affect reservoir operating schedule. No over and above than the allocation as per project parameters and design usage can be done, subject to authorized conversion from Agriculture to Pisiculture and separate water rates as decided by the Government.

(vii) Water in the reservoir will be operated as per the operation schedule based on the requirement for different uses. Water cannot be stored in the reservoir just for the purpose of developing fisheries.

(viii) Water Resources Department will have the right to empty the water bodies to take up repairs etc.

(ix) The water in the reservoirs shall not be utilized for unauthorized drinking water needs.

(x) Reservoirs shall not be polluted with the feed and insecticides used for the cultivation of fisheries, as the same water will be used for raising crops.

(xi) Multiplication centres and hatcheries for tilapia and other new freshwater fish species will be established in private sector.

(xii) At present the Government have abolished NALA tax for the benefit of Aquaculture and the same will be continued in the interest of Aquaculture Development.

7.1.6. Ornamental Fishery

a) The development of ornamental fisheries in the state as a "Cottage Industry" will be explored and ornamental fish breeding and culture shall be given more thrust.

b) Women self-help groups will be assisted technically and financially to take up ornamental fishery in a big way with the help of NFDB/ MPEDA and others.

c) Public Aquaria, oceanaria and Ornamental Fish parks shall be established as a measure towards eco-tourism under PPP mode

d) Promotion of hatcheries for seed production of ornamental fish

7.2. Technology Up Gradation

a. Government shall strive for installation of artificial reefs/Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to enhance fish production to traditional fishers.

b. Encourage indigenous manufacturing of farm mechanization equipments like aerators, solar pumps, motors, and automatic feed dispensers and water quality monitoring systems. Financial incentives as mentioned for fish processing industry units will be extended.

c. Improved dry fish processing and packaging technology shall be adopted to enhance marketability.

d. Encourage indigenous manufacturing of feed units with a subsidy and other incentives mentioned for fish processing units will be extended.

e. Encouraging live fish transport systems, Oceanaria, Mariculture, Emergency Disease Contingency planning etc.

7.3. Fiscal Incentives

7.3.1. Processing Units:

(i) For shrimp processing units including cold chain maintenance, Capital subsidy of 50% inclusive of land cost with upper ceiling limit of Rs. 5 crores, will be provided. The cost of land should not exceed 15% of the total project cost on sub – registrar value.

(ii) For **fish processing / filleting units** including cold chain, land cost etc., subsidy of 50% with upper ceiling limit of Rs. 7 crores will be provided. The cost of land should not exceed 15% of the total project cost on sub –registrar date.

(iii) Interest subvention of 6% will be provided on bank loan subject to maximum of Rs.2.5 Crores for 5 year period to aqua processing units, ice plants and cold storages.

(iv) Reefer vans: For purchase of Reefer vans, a subsidy of 50% with maximum of Rs. 10.00 Lakhs per vehicle will be provided from 2016-2017 onwards.

(v) Cold storage at ports/ Fishing harbours with subsidy will be permitted on par with industrial policy.

(vi) Aquaculture processing units shall be incentivized by providing 100% stamp duty exemption in land registration/lease of land/, mortgage deed/Bank documentation /Hypothecation etc.

(vii) Power subsidy will also be permitted to fish / prawn/ shrimp processing unit and ice plants from the date of commencement of commercial production and will be on par with industrial policy 2016-2017.

7.3.2. Aquaculture Pond /Farms:

(i) Financial assistance shall be extended for farm mechanization like pumps and aerators with 50% subsidy. Solar pumps, solar lights and solar based aerators will be given on 60% subsidy to the prawn and shrimp farms up to maximum of 2 ha per farmer per annum .

(ii) Scale of finance by banks will be as per reasonable requirement for pond culture.

(iii) All subsidy schemes of Government of India/ Government of A.P / NFDB/ MPEDA will also be accessed appropriately.

(iv) Power will be supplied to Shrimp/ Prawn culture farms at the rate of Rs.3.75 ps/ unit for a maximum of 2 hectares per aqua-farmers/ shrimp farmers from the year 2016-2017.

7.3.3. Feed Manufacturing units / fishery related Equipment Manufacturing :

(i) Incentives will be provided to feed manufacturing units, aerator manufacturing, fish processing equipment on par with industrial policy.

(ii) Interest subvention of 6% per annum up to a maximum of Rs.2.00 Crores will be provided for 5 years to **the Fish Feed Manufacturing units only.** This policy will be reviewed after one year.

7.3.4. Aqua labs / Disease diagnostic labs Promotion:

(i) All private labs in the State will be graded under technical supervision of State Institute of Fisheries Technology (SIFT), Kakinada. SIFT will act as State referral lab for all private labs. The technicians of these labs will be continuously monitored to upgrade their skills as per the technical requirements of Aquaculture sector.

(ii) Water and soil analysis labs will be promoted in all major aquaculture districts for conducive water management. One lab for every 500 ha area is proposed with a unit cost of maximum of Rs.10.00 lakhs. The financial assistance of 50 % on the unit cost will be extended by Government and the balance of 50% to be borne by the concerned entrepreneur/ stakeholder.

During the year 2015-16, 30 Nos will be considered for operationalisation and 25 labs during 2016-17 and 20 labs during 2017-18.

(iii) Quality control / Antibiotic residue testing labs will be promoted through private sector in the districts of East Godavari, Krishna and Prakasam to overcome the problem of rejection of exported shrimp due to presence of antibiotic residues. The unit cost of the lab will be Rs. 2.00 Crores of which the Govt. assistance will be 40% **.**

7.3.5. The Government would support quality improvement initiatives through institutions like NRC, CFTRI, etc. so that they adopt the latest quality measures such as Good Manufacturing Practices, Hazards Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), ISO 9000, Good Laboratory Practices (GLP), Total Quality Management (TQM), FSSAI, Food Packaging and Irradiation Technology, etc., the State Government will provide assistance of 50% of the cost of such certification, with a maximum limit of Rs 5.00 lakh .

7.4. Insurance Facility

Suitable modalities will be worked out for Insurance to Aquaculture crops, boats and nets in consultation with insurance companies.

7.5. Ease of Doing Business: In respect of large processing industry, Ice Plants, feed manufacturing plants, and fishery related equipments, boat building yards, aerators manufacturing units etc., there will be a **single desk system** for giving clearances to through the **e**-platform of Industries department.

Empowered Committee of Secretaries headed by Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries Department of Andhra Pradesh will Screen the applications and accord sanction to large projects.

The Constitution of Empowered committee will be as follows:

h) Secretary, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development & Fisheries Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh - Chairman
i) Secretary, Finance -Member
j) Secretary, Environment, Forest, Science and & Technology - Member
k) Secretary, Water Resources - Member
l) Secretary, Industries - Member
m) Secretary, Energy and infrastructure - Member
n) Commissioner of Fisheries- - Member/Convener

Small processing units will be sanctioned by District Committees" headed by District Collectors.

7.6. Research and Development

a. The efforts for basic and applied research to generate new knowledge, technology, strategies and application procedures related to the various problems of the fisheries sector and farmers would be strengthened in the govt. sector.

b. Research for development and adoption of technology for various aspects of different production systems prevailing in the country would be promoted. Focus would be on developing area and system specific low cost technologies using locally available resources and knowledge. All fiscal incentives applicable for aqua farmers/processing units as the case may be will be provided to the farmers/entrepreneurs adopting the new technology.

c. An Integrated Fisheries Research Institute with technical support of ICAR institutes will be established for promotion of fisheries technologies in the state for development of feed, processing technology, farm management, hatchery management in frontier areas of research.

d. A Special fund of Rs 5 cr will be created (subsidy up to 60 % will be provided for sponsored research by reputed research institutions in Private sector and PPP mode, 100% funding to govt. institutions) for research & development in aquaculture to bring new species of fishes like Snakeheads, Sea bass and shrimp multiplication centers in food parks, indoor intensive shrimp culture, bio-floc technology and such other frontier areas which promote sustainability/power and water saving/disease control to help large number of aqua farmers in the state etc.

e. Better coordination and convergence in the research efforts of various research and development institutions including the ICAR, State Agricultural and Veterinary University, All India Coordinated Research Projects, National Bureaus, NGOs and private sector to tackle demand driven and farmer-oriented issues will be prioritized.

7.7. Infrastructure Strengthening

a. Present fishing harbours and landing centers shall be provided with facilities for hygienic handling of fish as per the International standards.

b. Construction of landing, berthing, bunkering and post-harvest handling facilities shall be considered on a priority basis.

c. Infrastructure facilities like fish drying platforms, solar drying, dry fish storage sheds, boat building yards, village approach roads shall be implemented at all coastal villages.

d. Effort will be made for promotion of fish net weaving units in areas of Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, and Nellore districts.

7.8. Domestic Market Development

a) Construction of wholesale and retail hygienic fish markets, Mobile outlets, will be promoted and consumer awareness will be taken up.
b) Integrated Modern Fish markets will be promoted in Municipalities by tapping 40% of Unit cost from NFDB. Department of Fisheries will provide 40% of the unit cost and remaining 20% of the unit cost will be borne by the concerned local bodies for promotion of domestic market with hygienic conditions.
c) Improved Dry fish processing and packaging technology will be adopted to enhance marketability.
d) Assistance will be extended to self help groups to encourage Thrift & Micro-credit for market development and income generating enterprises for reaching the 'unreached'.
e) Online marketing of SHG products will be tied up with digital marketing companies like Flipkart etc. SERP help will be taken in this initiative.

7.9. Quality Up Gradation

a. Measures as appropriate for ensuring the quality, wholesomeness, safety for human consumption and value of harvested fish and fishery products will be promoted and introduced in a phased manner, based on Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) and Total Quality Management (TQM).
b. The government plans to set up State of the Art Testing Laboratories in the state which will test not only the quality of the finished product, but also the quality of the feeds. Such labs, if taken up under private sector will also be promoted.
c. A health monitoring and disease surveillance system (State Level Steering Committee) shall be established by networking the existing public and private laboratories

7.10. Public Private Partnership

a) Infrastructure facilities like All-weather Harbours for Fishing crafts with all facilities shall be established in Visakhapatnam. East Godavari, Prakasam and Nellore districts under Build Operate and Transfer (BOT). Government shall consider Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to such projects as per GoI guidelines, in addition to other fiscal incentives mentioned earlier.

b) Aqua clusters with cold chain, processing & value addition shall be established with the active participation of Private sectors like WalMart / Spencers /More/ Bigbazar etc., extending benefits as in the case of SEZ for 100% export promotion.

c) Sea cage culture and diversification into high value fish culture shall be prioritized and encouraged by importing technology already developed else ware with buy back agreement from importing country.

d) Government shall explore establishment of "Mid Sea Fish Processing/bunkering units" on a pilot basis under PPP mode for high value fin fish like tuna.

7.11. Export Promotion:

a) Linkage with MPEDA will be developed for storage/ refrigeration/ Harbour Facilities/ Fiscal Incentives.

b) Mega Food Parks will be established in suitable places by tapping the incentive from the Government of India.

c) Effort will be made to develop fisheries infrastructure for promotion of fish and fish products exports in Bhimavaram and Visakhapanam which are recognized as the towns of export excellence (marine Sector) in trade policy of Government of India, 2015-2020.

7.12. Welfare

a. Livelihood compensation of Rs. 5 lakh shall be paid to the fishermen during period of disasters, i.e., death in sea during fishing. For permanent disability, Rs. 2 lakhs will be paid. Advance warning systems shall be strengthened to inform fishermen of impending disaster

b. 'Polluter Pays Principle' shall be applied in the fisheries sector and the CSR funds thus collected from coastal establishments shall be routed for welfare of fishermen.

c. To ensure that the fishermen earn sustainable livelihood, it shall be the endeavor of the government to promote co-management of the resources by effective involvement of local community in a cohesive manner.

d. Government shall issue biometric identification to all fishermen.

e. Appropriate steps shall be taken to ensure that quality education and healthcare, housing shall be made available to the families of the fishermen. Fishermen habitations will be provided with safe drinking water, roads etc.

f. The extension of subsidies to SCs, STs and Women shall be on par with industrial policy *vis a vis* this policy.

7.13. Human Resource Development

a. Aquaculture university/colleges/Polytechnic colleges will be established either through Public or Private sector to augment the availability of skilled man-power. Initially, the government shall introduce new fishery courses under the existing S.V. veterinary university of AP till a separate Fisheries University is established in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

b. The university shall encourage joint industry-academic development Programmes.

c. Fisheries Polytechnic Colleges will offer 2 years courses on Food Processing, Food safety, Feed management, Packing, Hatchery operation and Maintenance and Farm Management.

d. Up gradation of some of the ITI's as "Marine Production and Aquaculture Focused Institutes" shall be promoted under PPP mode.

e. The State Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kakinada and other training institutions shall be strengthened and upgraded to cater to the needs of all stake holders.

f. To meet the immediate man power needs of the department, either outsourcing of services or out sourcing of personnel will be considered till a permanent arrangement is in place.

g. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) shall be implemented in the department to act as a cost-effective and interactive mechanism for delivering relevant information and knowledge to the stakeholders.

h. To bring awareness among all the the aquafarmers and FCS/Matsya Mitra Groups like Neeru – Chettu, Janma Bhoomi, Maa Vooru Campaign mode Government flagship Platforms will be effectively used for disease control and Best management Practices.

7.14. Institutional Strengthening

a. Monitoring, Control and disease Surveillance is an essential component for successful implementation of the aforementioned steps. Mechanism such as "State Level Steering Committee" shall be established in the Fisheries department for implementing this policy.

b. Implementing all the aforementioned aspects, the Department of Fisheries shall recruit appropriate number of personnel.

c. Steps shall be taken to strengthen the existing District level co-operative network institutions under the umbrella of Andhra Pradesh State Fishermen Cooperative Societies Federation Ltd (AFCOF) and it will be further strengthened on par with the institutions like Kerala and West Bengal and Maharashtra. Agencies like NFDB/NCDC/NRLM/NIPHATT etc., shall be linked with the AFCOF.

7.15. Convergence and Linkages

a. For promotion of fisheries sector, participation and convergence will be ensured with the line departments - marine police, revenue, welfare, health, education, panchayat raj and rural development.

b. A task force committee headed by Principal Secretary, AH, DD & F as chairman, Commissioner of Fisheries as member convener and other major stake holders as members shall be constituted to deliberate on the issues concerning fisheries and aquaculture.

c. All the programmes of State, Central Government, MPEDA, NFDB and such other funding agencies will be implemented through a single window.

d. Steps shall be taken to involve national and international agencies like NACA, FAO, SIDA, DFID, JICA, BoBP, CAA, ICAR, ICSF, BOBLME, SAU, NIFPHATT, MPEDA & NFDB, NABARD, NCDC in the fisheries sector of Andhra Pradesh.

8. Policy Outcomes:

The implementation of the Fisheries Policy, 2015 is expected to yield the following outcomes:

(i) Increased production and productivity by 20-30% increasing the GSDP contribution of Fisheries Sector.
(ii) Prevention of post harvest losses to a tune of 10-20 %
(iii) Better infrastructure and logistics facilities in the sector ensuing the availability of fish products in all the days.
(iv) Increased marine exports and domestic trade thereby increase in foreign exchange earnings.- Target is to double the value of marine exports in next five areas Better infrastructure facilities in the sector
(v) Enhanced capacity building to manage the resources sustainably and rationally will lead to enhanced capacity building to 4.30 lakhs fishers and fish farmers
(vi) Better nutritional support through good protein and micronutrients intake can reduce malnutrition by 20% among poorer sections
(vii) Gainful employment in fisheries and allied ancillary industries.- Additional employment opportunities to 1.4 lakhs fishers directly and 2.8 lakhs indirectly
(viii) Diesel subsidy will benefit many families
(ix) Promote research in frontier areas of aquaculture.
(x) Better fish farmers welfare
(xi) Empowerment of women fishers
(xii) Promote Sustainable fishery in the State.
(xiii) Enhanced skill of the personnel / aqua farmers

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